



Section IV: Network Security
Title: Encryption Security Standard
Current Effective Date: June 30, 2008
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Purpose: To protect the North Carolina (NC) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) confidential data and information using encryption techniques.

STANDARD

1.0 Background

The encryption standards specified by the North Carolina General Statute (N.C.G.S.) § 75-65. Protection from Security Breaches have been approved by the NC State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) as the best practice for cryptographic algorithm, and has been adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Divisions and Offices shall be responsible for all data security of any computer system that stores confidential information. A routine risk assessment must be performed under the direction of the responsible Division Information Security Official (ISO) in order to determine what potential threats may exist in the workplace. If any inherent risk factors are determined, the Division ISO must handle the threat in the best interest of DHHS, as deemed applicable per occurrence. Based on the risk assessment, the Division ISO must then determine whether cryptographic protection is required and enforced on the system.

2.0 Encryption Process

For confidential data, the encryption process shall be enforced for data at rest as well as data in transit. The encryption shall meet and/or exceed approved algorithms and key lengths. The use of proprietary encryption algorithms shall not be allowed for any purpose.

The Division ISO shall be responsible for validating and managing all key servers, backup of keys, and restoration of assets. Record keeping of the encryption keys shall be the sole responsibility of the Divisions and Offices for their entire workforce.





Reference:

- North Carolina General Statute
 - N.C.G.S. § 75-65. Protection from Security Breaches.
- NC Statewide Information Security Manual, Version No. 1
 - Chapter 3 – Processing Information and Documents, Section 08: Securing Data
 - Standard 030801 – Using Encryption Techniques
- NC DHHS Security Standards
 - Administrative Security Standard
 - Personnel Security Standard
 - Network Security Standard
 - Wireless Security Standard
- NC DHHS Policy and Procedure Manual, Section VIII – Security and Privacy, Security Manual
 - Acceptable Use for DHHS Information Procedures
 - Data Protection Policy
 - DHHS Security Organization Policy
 - Information Security Management Policy

